

**To:** Presidents  
Chief Trainers

**From:** Tom Reed, Lead Coordinator – Member Training

**Date:** 17 September 2025

**Action:** Read and distribute to all trainers and relevant members.

## Skills Maintenance 2025/26 Season

**The changes for skills maintenance requirements are now live, please see a detailed breakdown of the changes for both the practical and theory requirements for the 2025/26 season as directed by Surf Life Saving Australia (SLSA).**

The Skills Maintenance app has now been updated for the start of the season, and with a specific focus on the roll out of Lifesaving CPR this season there are several changes to the requirements for members to help prioritise this roll out and to make the entire skills maintenance process easier for clubs this season.

For the 2025/26 season the following Skills Maintenance is in place for the awards listed below and should be completed annually unless stated otherwise:

Lifesaving Award	eLearning	Practical Activities	Licence Check
Surf Rescue Certificate	Yes	Yes	No
Bronze Medallion	Yes	Yes	No
Radio Operators Certificate*	No	Yes	No
Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue	No	Yes	No
Silver Medallion Patrol Captain**	No	No	No
Gold Medallion	No	Yes	No
Advanced Resuscitation Techniques	Yes	Yes	No
Side-by-Side Vehicle Operator	No	No	Yes

Inflatable Rescue Boat Crew	No <sup>^</sup>	Yes	No
Silver Medallion Inflatable Rescue Boat Driver	No <sup>^</sup>	Yes	Yes
Rescue Watercraft Operator	Yes	Yes	Yes

\*There is no stand-alone skills maintenance for Radio Operator Certificate this season, radio skills maintenance can be conducted with Lifesaving CPR.

\*\*There is no skills maintenance for SMPC for the 25/26 season. This award will be automatically renewed by SLSA for all current holders.

<sup>^</sup>If skills maintenance for IRBC or SMIRBD was completed in the 2024/25 season there is no eLearning requirement for this upcoming season. If you did not complete Skills Maintenance for these awards in 24/25 you will need to enrol and complete eLearning this season.

## Theory & eLearning requirements

The eLearning requirements are significantly reduced for the upcoming season, with only three awards with required eLearning. The eLearning for IRBC and IRBD does not need to be completed if the member completed it in the previous season.

Bronze and SRC eLearning requirements are outlined as follows:

- 2 eLearning modules covering Lifesaving CPR, approx. 20 minutes.
- 1 video outlining, changes to skills maintenance requirements, as well as any changes to SLS procedures or ANZCOR guidelines, approx. 3 minutes.

Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (ART) must complete the following eLearning components:

- 1 eLearning module covering Lifesaving CPR with a specific focus on team leadership and group management.
- For any ART holders who do not hold a Bronze Medallion or Surf Rescue Certificate, they will be able to enrol in the 2 modules for Lifesaving CPR as an optional requirement should they wish to be better across the whole process before completing the practical requirement.

## Practical Requirements

Please see below changes and requirements for the practical delivery of Skills Maintenance for each award.

### **Bronze Medallion & Surf Rescue Certificate:**

- **Lifesaving CPR Practical (approx. 90 minutes):** This practical component of Lifesaving CPR will make up the bulk of the practical session for Bronze and SRC. It will also fulfil their requirement of demonstrating their DRSABCD and CPR.
- **Run-Swim-Rescue:** Replacing the Run-Swim-Run and separate rescue components, this is a new addition that will see candidates complete a 100m run, a 100m swim (in 3:30 minutes or less) out to a patient in the water. Once they reach the patient the timed component will finish, and the candidate must complete a tube rescue of a conscious patient into the shore. Swim fins are optional for the swim leg.
- **Signals:** Must demonstrate knowledge of at least 4 signals.
- *There are no other practical components to be demonstrated for this season.*

### **Silver Medallion Aquatic Rescue**

- Must hold current Bronze Medallion
- Must completed a timed swim of 400m in 8 minutes or less in a pool of no less than 25m.

### **Advanced Resuscitation Techniques (ART)**

- **Lifesaving CPR Practical (approx. 90 minutes):** This practical component of Lifesaving CPR will fulfil the CPR requirement for ART Skills Maintenance:
- **Advanced Resuscitation:** Team CPR scenario including primary assessment (DRSABCD) – to include resuscitation methods using a resuscitation mask or face shield, AED, oropharyngeal airways and oxygen supplement (oxygen cylinder connected to bag-valve-mask resuscitator on an unconscious patient).
- **Bag-Valve-Mask Resuscitator:** Correct setup, check and use of bag valve mask resuscitator.

### **IRBC and IRBD**

- IRBC must demonstrate the below Crewing Positions:
  - Rise Crewing Position
  - Emergency Punch Position
  - Standing Crewing Position
  - Lock-In Position
- IRBD must demonstrate the below for the driving practical:
  - 1'o'clock wave negotiation
  - Parallel running.
- Reboarding in water: Both Crew and Driver must demonstrate in reboarding craft in water.

- Both Crew and Driver will be asked to demonstrate awareness of the new Powercraft Code of Conduct through a discussion with the TAF as part of their Skills Maintenance. Drivers must also present a current Marine Licence.

### **Gold Medallion**

- **Timed Swim:** Candidates must complete a timed swim of 800m in 14 minutes or less in a swimming pool no less than 25m in length. This must be completed before any of the other components can be completed.
- **Mission Test (time):** Candidates must complete a timed mission comprised of 400m swim, 800m run, 400m board paddle and 800m run in a time of 25 minutes or less.
- **Rescue:** Demonstrate a board and a tube rescue. For the board rescue the patient should be 200m out to sea and for the tube 100m out. Fins should be use for the tube rescue.
- **Complex Rescue Scenario:** Demonstrate a complex rescue scenario as set by the delegated assessor according to the SLSA operating procedures in the current SLSA Public Safety and Aquatic Rescue training manual. The rescue must assess the following events
  - o Negotiating the surf zone
  - o Securing the patient/s
  - o Returning to shore without losing the patient/s
  - o Calling for assistance
  - o Performing emergency care as required by the patient/s.

Please note that for Side-by-Side Vehicle Operator members must provide evidence of a current Driver's Licence. Radio Operator Certificate does not have any specific skills maintenance, but can be demonstrated through the Lifesaving CPR practical component.

For further detail regarding changes to Skills Maintenance or for tips on how to complete processing through the app, please access the [skills maintenance guide](#) linked. We have also included in the guide scenarios that trainers may wish to use to engage their members in skill demonstrations outside of what has been set above. These are optional for clubs to use.

For all requirements and changes regarding Lifesaving CPR please refer to [Lifesaving CPR Circular](#).

### **For additional details on this circular please contact:**

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